इन सभी केन्द्रों से उम्मीद की जाती है कि वे छात्रों, अध्यापकों, विद्वानों और सांस्कृतिक क्षेत्र से सम्बद्ध लोगों सहित स्थानीय नागरिकों के एक व्यापक समूह के साथ सम्पर्क विकसित करें और उसे बनाए रखें।

(ग) और (घ) जी हां। ताशकन्द (उजबेकिस्तान) और अल्माती (कजाकिस्तान) में सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का प्रस्ताव है।

Visit to India By French Senate Committee Delegation

1058. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether some delegation of the French Senate Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces has recently visited India;

(b) if so, what are the details there of with background for such a move;

(c) whether India has gained something with this visit; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The visit of the French Senate delegation from 7 - 14 February 1994 was at their own initiative, within the framework of strengthening bilateral interaction.

(c) and (d) The visit provided a useful opportunity to intensify our dialogue with France at the level of Parliamentarians as well as to convey our perceptions and concerns on various issues, particularly those related to the problem of Pak-sponsored terrorism. The visit is expected to impart further momentum to Indo-French relations in the political, economic and cultural fields.

Divisional Passport Office At Pune

1059. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI :
SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a demand for opening of a Divisional Passport Office at Pune for Western and Southern Maharashtra and Maharashtra regions;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and

(c) what action has been taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL ARRAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) to (c) Requests have been received for opening more Passport Offices in various States and Union Territories, including Pune in Maharashtra State.

The opening of new Passport Offices is based on various parameters including work load and resources available. The opening of a new Passport Office does not itself improve the service until the necessary infrastructure and personnel are available. The Govt. is, therefore, concentrating on clearing the backlog of pending applications, trying to cut down on delay in issuing passports and streamlining and simplifying procedures.

Shortage of Passport Booklets

1060. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI :
SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a shortage of passport booklets in Ahmedabad, Bhopal and other Regional Passport Offices; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken to improve the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL ARRAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Meeting of External Affiairs Minister With European Troika

1061. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the External Affiairs Minister met the European Troika in the first half of February in Brussels ;

(b) if so, what did transpare in those meetings in Kashmir question and on terrorism engineered by Pakistan in India ;

(c) whether some comments on not depending on security orces was voiced : and

(d) how far these confabulations helped Government's cause on Kashmir and Pak-inspired terrorism in India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) India's stand on Kashmir and concerns regarding Pak support to terrorism directed against India were conveyed to the European Union Trokia.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The European Union Troika indicated that they would continue to support a bilateral dialoque between India and Pakistan to Kashmir resolve all issues including Kashmir nd to urge Pakistan to stop support to militancy in J & K.

Pakistan Premier's Assistance for Rajiv Gandhi Goverament in Over-Coming Militancy in Punjab

1062. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governments attention has beem drawn to the reported interview of the Pakistan Prime Minister with BBC that she has helped the Rajiv Gandhi Government in overcoming the Sikh militancy in Punjab ;

(b) if so, what are the facts in this regard what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what is the nature and extent of help provided by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the Rajiv Gandhi Government ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Government have come across reports of the interview given by the Prime Minister of Pakistan to the BBC.

(b) and (c) During the visit of the then Prime Minister Rajive Gandhi to Islamabad, the Prime Minister of Pakistan Benazir-Bhutto assured him of her commitment to the policy of non-interference in our internal affairs.

Governemtn's views in respect of Pakistan's involvement in terrorist activities against India are well known to Pakistan. Government have been taking up this matter with the Governemnt of Pakistan at every availavle opportunity. Regrettably however, there has been no let up in Pakistan's support to subversion and terrorism directed against India.

India's Ratification to Un Covenants Conventions

1063. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of the UN Covenants, conventions and declarations which have been ratified by our country; and

(b) what are the reasons for non-ratification of such covenants conventions and declarations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) India has ratified/acceded to over hundred Conventions, Covenants and Protocols to which UN is the depositary. UN declarations do not require States to become parties.

(b) India has not become party to those UN Conventions which are either not considered to be in accordance with our national interests and concerns or because the matter is still under consideration of the Government.